



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 25, 2002

S. 2730

Restore the Apalachicola River Ecosystem Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 26, 2002*

SUMMARY

S. 2730 would deauthorize a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project for maintenance dredging of a 9-foot deep by 100-foot wide navigation channel along 107 miles of the Apalachicola River. This channel is part of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers navigation project which spans the states of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. In addition, this bill would authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, to work with the state of Florida to develop a restoration plan for the Apalachicola River.

Assuming appropriation action consistent with this legislation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2730 would result in a net savings of about \$6 million over the 2003-2007 period. Enacting S. 2730 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2730 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2730 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
End Apalachicola Maintenance Dredging					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	-2	-2	-2	-2
Estimated Outlays	0	-2	-2	-2	-2
Apalachicola Restoration Plan					
Estimated Authorization Level	2	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	1	0	0	0
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	2	-2	-2	-2	-2
Estimated Outlays	1	-1	-2	-2	-2

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2730 will be enacted in fiscal year 2003 and that amounts will be appropriated to complete the restoration plan. Based on information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2730 would result in a net savings of about \$6 million over the 2003-2007 period.

S. 2730 would deauthorize an Army Corps project for maintenance dredging of a 9-foot deep by 100-foot wide navigation channel along 107 miles of the Apalachicola River. Currently, the Corps spends about \$2 million annually to dredge this navigation channel. According to the Corps, suspending maintenance dredging on the Apalachicola River may affect the Corps's ability to dredge the Chattahoochee River as well as perform operations and maintenance work, including work on some locks and dams, along the entire Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers navigation project. It is uncertain, however, if and when other dredging and operations and maintenance work would be disrupted or discontinued. CBO estimates that implementing S. 2730 would save about \$2 million a year starting in fiscal year 2004; however, savings could increase as other maintenance costs are discontinued.

S. 2730 also would authorize the Corps to develop a restoration plan for the Apalachicola River in conjunction with the state of Florida at a total cost of \$4 million. Under current law, the Corps would be responsible for approximately one-half of the cost of the restoration plan. CBO estimates that the federal cost of the plan would be about \$2 million over fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2730 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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